

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03068 141611Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 /065 W

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R 141415Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3267

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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SECAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3068

EO 11652: GDS-82

TAGS: PFOR NATO SP DA

SUBJ: CHIEF OF DEFENSE COMMENTS ON SPAIN ENTERING NATO

SUMMARY. GENERAL BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER, DANISH CHIEF OF
DEFENSE, BELIEVES IT WILL BE ONE OR TWO YEARS BEFORE THE
QUESTION OF SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO CAN BE CONSIDERED.

END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 COPENH 03068 141611Z

1. DURING DISCUSSION BETWEEN SECAF THOMAS REED AND DANISH

CHIEF OF DEFENSE GEN BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER, SEC REED ASKED THE GENERAL FOR HIS OBSERVATIONS ON SPAIN'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO. GEN BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER FIRST EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A POLITICAL QUESTION WHICH WAS OUT OF HIS AREA RESPONSIBILITY, THEN WENT ON TO SAY IT WAS TOO EARLY TO EXPECT ANY POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES TOWARDS SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO NATO. HOWEVER, IF SPAIN CONTINUED DOWN THE ROAD TOWARDS REAL DEMOCRACY, THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES WOULD CERTAINLY BE AMENABLE TO SPAIN'S ENTRY AS A MEMBER, OR SOME OTHER FORM OF COOPERATION. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE ONE OR TWO YEARS BEFORE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE. GEN BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN COOPERATION

BETWEEN DENMARK AND SPAIN ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, EVEN THOUGH THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE AN UNLIKELY AREA WITH WHICH TO BEGIN.

2. ONE PROBLEM COMPLICATING AN OPENING TOWARDS SPAIN IS THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY SCANDINAVIAN POLITICIANS AND PUBLIC FIGURES WHO WERE INVOLVED IN OR REMEMBER THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR AND ARE UNBENDING IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT REGIME, WHICH IS CONSIDERED A CONTINUATION OF RANCO'S REGIME. ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL, THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY AND THE FEAR THAT THE PENDULUM MIGHT SWING FROM THE FAR RIGHT TO THE FAR LEFT IN SPAIN, MAKING ITS ENTRY INTO NATO STILL UNPLATABLE. THUS, THE DANES AND OTHERS PREFER TO WAIT AND LET DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN HAVE TIME TO SETTLE DOWN BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH03068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760347-0389
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760964/aaaaccjq.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIEF OF DEFENSE COMMENTS ON SPAIN ENTERING NATO SUMMARY. GENERAL BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER, DANISH CHIEF OF DEFENSE, BELIEVES IT WILL BE ONE OR TWO YEARS BEFO
TAGS: PFOR, SP, DA, NATO, (REED, THOMAS), (BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006